DC
BATMAN
713
$2.99
U.S.
NICIEZA
SCOTT
SAMPERE
BRESSAN
WONG
PERROTTA
RAMOS
DIRECT SALES
RATED T TEEN
OCT 2011

"THIS IS THE STORY OF A BOY WHO LOST HIS PARENTS, BUT THROUGH THAT LOSS GAINED A NOBLE PURPOSE IN LIFE.
"HE GREW UP OBSESSED WITH FIGHTING CRIME--WITH THE IDEA OF NEVER LETTING ANY OTHER INNOCENTS SUFFER AS HE HAD.
"TO DO THIS, HE REALIZED HE NEEDED TO BE MORE THAN A MAN, HE NEEDED TO BE A SYMBOL--
"--SOMETHING THAT WOULD STRIKE FEAR INTO THE COWARDLY, SUPERSTITIOUS HEARTS OF GOTHAM CITY'S CRIMINALS...
"...AND SO, THE BATMAN WAS BORN--A SHADOW OF JUSTICE CAST OVER A BLEAK CITY.
"AND HE QUICKLY BROUGHT A RAY OF HOPE TO THE MASSES--BUT WHAT COULD BRING LIGHT TO HIS BLACKENED HEART...?"

"...OF ALL THINGS, IT WAS A BOY--A BRIGHT SQUIRE TO THIS DARK KNIGHT.
"THIS ROBIN, THIS BOY WONDER, WOULD COME TO MEAN MANY THINGS TO THE BATMAN--
"--RESPONSIBILITY, VALIDATION, FRIEND AND VALUED PARTNER."
Bruce Wayne has cast the shadow of the Batman across the world, but Gotham City still needs a dark knight. The cowl is now worn by Dick Grayson, the original Robin, who fights crime with a new boy wonder, Wayne's son, Damian. Together they are--
BATMAN and ROBIN
IN
STORYBOOK ENDINGS
FABIAN NICIEZA: WRITER STEVE SCOTT, DANIEL SAMPERE & ANDREI BRESSAN: PENCILLERS
WALDEN WONG, RICK FERRETTA, ANDREI BRESSAN & RODNEY RAMOS: INKERS
JARED K. FLETCHER: LETTERS IAN HANNIN: COLORS
KATIE KUBERT: ASSISTANT EDITOR
JANELLE ASSELIN: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE MARTS: BATMAN GROUP EDITOR
COVER BY TONY DANIEL
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

"THEY WERE A PERFECT TEAM, DARK AND LIGHT IN EQUAL MEASURE--"
MUST BE HARD TO BE A HENCHMAN!
"--BUT BOTH WERE STILL YOUNG AND STILL HAD MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE WAR ON CRIME THEY HAD UNDERTAKEN."
I MEAN, WHAT IS A "HENCH MAN" EXACTLY?
"SO WHILE BATMAN DISPOSED RATHER EASILY OF THE RIDDLER--"
I'LL NEED TO LOOK THAT UP LATER. GIVE YOU YOUR DUE, YOU KNOW?
"--ROBIN DID WHAT HE ALWAYS DID..."
JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU GUYS MATTER EVEN JUST A LITTLE...

"... HE MADE THE CANNON FODDER SUFFER THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAUMA OF BEING DEFEATED BY A CHILD."
NOT THAT YOU EVEN DESERVE THE EFFORT.
"AN INCREDIBLY ANNOYING CHILD..."
LET'S SEE WHO WE HAVE HERE...
... HENRY McNULTY, AGE THIRTY-SIX. IF WE RUN YOUR NAME WILL WE FIND ANY PRIORS...
...OR DID YOU BUY A SWEATER WITH A QUESTION MARK ON IT AND THEN RUN INTO THESE OTHER GUYS BY COINCIDENCE?
"THAT WAS HOW THEY SPENT THEIR NIGHTS, AVENGING THE WRONGS DONE TO THEM SO THAT OTHERS WOULD NOT FEEL THE SAME LOSS.
"THEY DID NOT WORK WITH THE POLICE, BUT THEY DIDN'T WORK AGAINST THEM, EITHER.
"THERE WAS AN UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT. THEY DID THEIR DUTY AND RETURNED TO THEIR MYSTERIOUS HOME."

"WHERE DID THEY LIVE?"
"I BET THEY WEREN'T EVEN *HUMAN*—LIKE *LIVING SHADOWS* OR SOMETHING."
"NO, NO--THEY LIVED IN A COOL SUPER-TECH HQ ON TOP OF THE CITY'S TALLEST BUILDING!"
"NO--*UNDERGROUND*, LIKE IN THE *SEWERS* WITH RATS AND ALLIGATORS!"
"I BET HE LIVED IN A *CAVE*."
"A CAVE. THAT'S *DUMB*."
"BATS LIVE IN CAVES."
"THAT'S STILL DUMB."
"CAN I CONTINUE...?"

*SO, THEY WORKED TOGETHER FOR YEARS, BUT THE CITY'S CRIMINALS ONLY GOT *WORSE.*
*ROBIN BEGAN TO *REBEL,* IMPATIENT THAT THEIR EFFORTS HADN'T RID GOTHAM OF CRIME--
*--BUT ALSO GROWING UP, NEEDING TO BE HIS OWN MAN."
YOU CAN'T KEEP TREATING ME LIKE I'M *TWELVE* ANYMORE!
*ROBIN WAS A MORE *SOCIAL* HERO. HE *WANTED* HUMAN CONTACT--AND BEING HIS FRIEND WAS CONSIDERED AN HONOR.
*SO HE *SEPARATED* FROM BATMAN AND BECAME HIS OWN HERO--
*--NIGHTWING!
*AND WHETHER ALONE OR WITH THE *TEEN TITANS,* HE CONTINUED TO FIGHT CRIME IN HIS OWN UNIQUE WAY..."
GUYS, GUYS--WE'RE GOING ON AT LEAST FIVE--
--SIX--
--MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS ALREADY--

JOYRIDING IS ONE THING--
--JOYRIDING WASTED IS ANOTHER--
--AND CARRYING WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT-- OY VEY--
--THAT'S WHERE ANY SELF-RESPECTING MAN WEARING SPANDEX HAS TO DRAW THE LINE!
UNLESS THEY'RE BALLET DANCERS OR GYMNASTS, BUT THEY'D PROBABLY BE TOO SMART TO BE TRYING THIS...
KLONK
~HMPH~ I DIDN'T KNOW HERD'S COULD MAKE THAT SOUND.
"HE WASN'T AS DRIVEN BY ANGER AS THE BATMAN WAS. YES, THIS WAS A CALLING-- A MISSION--
"--BUT FOR HIM, IT WAS ALSO AN ADVENTURE!"

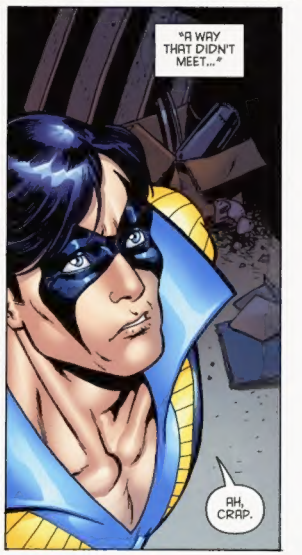
"NIGHTWING CARED ABOUT PEOPLE, BUT NOT IN THE SAME WAY BATMAN DID.
"THE DARK KNIGHT *BURIED* HIS *COMPASSION* DEEP INSIDE.

"HE FEARED IF HE WORE IT OUTWARDLY, IT WOULD *PARALYZE* HIM LIKE AN ARMOR MADE OF PURE PAIN.

"BUT NIGHTWING GREW UP AROUND PEOPLE--IN A *CIRCUS*--HE KNEW HOW TO BALANCE *WORK* AND *PLAY*."
HEY, WAIT UP!

"AND HE'D BEEN DEVELOPING HIS OWN WAY OF GETTING THINGS DONE--

"--A WAY THAT WAS WORKING FOR HIM.


"A WAY THAT DIDN'T MEET..."
AH, CRAP.

"...WITH EVERYONE'S APPROVAL."
YOU LOST SOMETHING.
YEAH, HE GOT UNEXPECTEDLY SKYJACKED.
LET'S SEE WHO WE HAVE HERE...
...McNULTY... DAMN.
WE ARRESTED HIS FATHER A FEW YEAR'S AGO. PART OF THE RIDDLER'S GANG.
HNN.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
ONCE, THAT WOULD HAVE EATEN AWAY AT YOU!
NOW YOU CAN BARELY MUSTER A GRUNT.
"SOON, NIGHTWING LEFT GOTHAM CITY TO TRY TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY ON HIS OWN.
"AS FOR BATMAN..."

"...HE LOST HIS *MORAL COMPASS.*
"AND HE TRIED TO FIND IT BY CHOOSING THE *WRONG* CANDIDATE TO BE HIS NEXT ROBIN.

"IT PROVED TO BE A *TRAGEDY.*

"A YOUNG MAN WHO UNCOVERED BATMAN AND NIGHTWING'S SECRET IDENTITIES BECAME THE *THIRD* ROBIN.

"SOME CONSIDER HIS ASSUMPTION OF THAT ROLE A TRAGEDY AS WELL...OR AT LEAST A TRAGIC *MISTAKE...*"

"BUT THE THIRD ROBIN'S ARRIVAL DID HELP SOOTHE THE DARK KNIGHT'S GUILTY SOUL.
"A MAN WHO HAD SPURNED FRIENDSHIP AS A RESULT OF THE SECOND ROBIN'S DEATH--
"--SOON FOUND HIMSELF NAVIGATING A VERY COMPLICATED EXTENDED *FAMILY* OF CRIMEFIGHTERS--
"--ALL OF WHOM LOOKED TO HIM FOR GUIDANCE AND APPROVAL.
"EVEN THROUGH COUNTLESS PITFALLS, FOR A TIME, THINGS IMPROVED.
"HE DISCOVERED A *SON* HE DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD. AND MAYBE THERE WAS SOME NEW *HOPE* THERE...
"...HE HAD REASONS TO EMBRACE THE LIGHT AND NOT JUST THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT...
"...THEN, SUDDENLY..."

*... HE WAS LOST TO US.
*WITH BATMAN GONE, A BATTLE FOR THE COWL WAS WAGED... AND THE MOST LOGICAL SUCCESSOR BECAME THE BAT...
*... THE ORIGINAL ROBIN BECAME THE NEW BATMAN--AND THE SON OF THE BAT BECAME THE NEW ROBIN.
*AND EVEN WHEN THE REAL BATMAN RETURNED, HE SAW THE NEW DYNAMIC DUO AND HE WAS HAPPY--
--SO HE GAVE THEM THE BEST GIFT HE COULD IMAGINE--

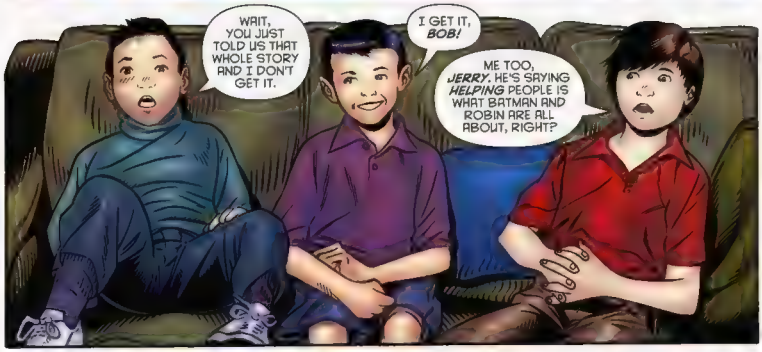
"--HE GAVE THEM A CITY TO PROTECT!
"GOTHAM CITY."
--HOSTAGE SITUATION AT THE SCHIFF REHABILITATION CLINIC.
FOUR KIDNAPPERS AND THREE HOSTAGES SIGHTED.
GIVE ME SOME IMAGING.
I ONLY COUNT THREE PEOPLE HOLDING GUNS.
AND TWO HOSTAGES KNEELING.
BUT WHICH ONE?
THE LAST PAIR ARE SOMEWHERE INSIDE--ONE OF THE OFFICES.

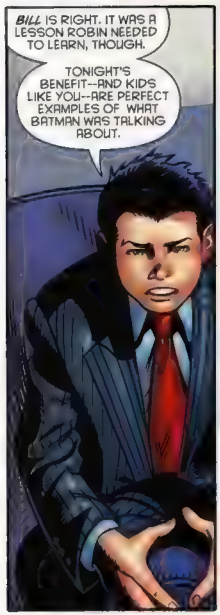
WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH...
*THROUGH IT ALL, FOR HIM, IT WAS *STILL* AN ADVENTURE.
*AND THE NEW ROBIN, WHO HAD BEEN TOO FOCUSED--*UNRELENTING,* SO... *UNFORGIVING...*
*...SLOWLY FOUND HIMSELF...LEARNING...
*...FROM HIS NEW *MENTOR*--HIS NEW...*FRIEND.*
*AND BEING HIS FRIEND WAS...AN *HONOR.*
*ROBIN WOULD *NEVER* TELL HIM THAT, BUT IT WAS HOW HE FELT.*

"SO WHEREAS WHEN THEY FIRST BECAME PARTNERS, ROBIN MIGHT HAVE TAKEN UMBRAGE AT BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO--"
"WHAT'S UMBRAGE?"
"DON'T INTERRUPT.
"OR BEEN EMBARRASSED TO MAKE A MISTAKE--"
ROBIN--DON'T--?!
"--NOW, HE'S ACCEPTED IT ALL AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF LEARNING."
NO--WAIT--

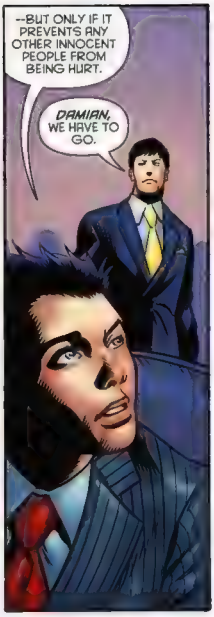
I DON'T THINK SO.
WAIT--WHAT--?
SHE'S THE KIDNAPPER. HE WAS THE HOSTAGE FIGHTING BACK AGAINST HER.
HOW DO YOU--
THIS IS KEVIN McNULTY. I ARRESTED HIM YEARS AGO.
WHEN HE WAS PAROLED THREE MONTHS AGO, I ASKED THE WAYNE FOUNDATION TO OFFER HIM A JOB COUNSELING HERE.
IT'S LIKE I'VE TRIED TO TELL YOU, IT'S ABOUT THE VICTIMS, NOT THE CRIMINALS.
BUT THERE WOULD BE NO VICTIMS WITHOUT THE CRIMINALS.
REALLY...?
"...HE SAID, WITH A SMILE THAT WARNED ROBIN A LESSON WAS COMING..."

WAYNE FOUNDATION
AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT HAPPENED...ROBIN LEARNED A LESSON.
PACKRAT COMICS


WAIT, YOU JUST TOLD US THAT WHOLE STORY AND I DON'T GET IT.
I GET IT, *BOB!*
ME TOO, *JERRY.* HE'S SAYING *HELPING* PEOPLE IS WHAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ALL ABOUT, RIGHT?


BILL IS RIGHT. IT WAS A LESSON ROBIN NEEDED TO LEARN, THOUGH.
TONIGHT'S BENEFIT--AND KIDS LIKE YOU--ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF WHAT BATMAN WAS TALKING ABOUT.

ROBIN THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT BEATING DOWN BAD GUYS--
WHICH IS COOL!
WHICH IS *TOTALLY* COOL--


--BUT ONLY IF IT PREVENTS ANY OTHER INNOCENT PEOPLE FROM BEING HURT.
DAMIAN, WE HAVE TO GO.

LET'S CHECK OUT THEIR LIMO!
YEAH!

ALFRED, ARE OUR WORK CLOTHES INSIDE?
APARO'S
OF COURSE THEY ARE, MASTER DICK.
WHO AM I TO DENY TWO MEN THE RIGHT TO CHANGE INTO UNITARDS IN THE BACK SEAT OF THEIR LIMOUSINE?

WE NEED SOMETHING THAT CHANGES OUR CLOTHES AUTOMATICALLY--LIKE A POLE OR SOMETHING.
THAT IS RIDICULOUS.
NO, SERIOUSLY, WE SLIDE DOWN AND--
WATCH YOUR ELBOW...

WAIT A SEC--LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S THE BAT-SIGNAL!
WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING?
I DON'T KNOW--
--ALL I KNOW IS...

"...I GOT A GREAT IDEA FOR A *NEW STORY*..."
NEVER THE END...

DC Specul-NATION

So here I am, sitting on the plane to San Diego writing a DC Nation page about Comic-Con knowing full well that it will be printed long after the show is over. With so many things coming up with our books and a huge convention in front of me, I have a lot of time for speculation. And the terrible pun at the top of this page.

With this being my 17th SDCC, you'd think there wouldn't be much left to contemplate. Come out to the coast...have a few laughs, a few panels, see thousands of excited fans and mountains of giveaways. Seems pretty standard and easy to write about, except this year is unlike any other year, and what was once easy to speculate about has turned into an incredible game of wait and see.

It's been over a month and a half since DC Comics announced its plans for The New 52, and speculation (there's that word again) on the changes they bring has been rampant. There are abundant theories, guesses, fears and hopes coming in from all corners. But speculation is what we do as fans, right?

We've seen it all before with relaunches, reboots and all-new number ones.

We should know what to expect. But with The New 52 there has never been an initiative of this size and purpose. Never before has a company tried to stop, then restart an entire universe of our scale.

We are certainly happy to have stoked the fires of speculation about The New 52. Carefully planned snippets of sound bites and visuals were designed to grab the fans' interest in June (when the books were first solicited) and cause it to burst by August 31st when FLASHPOINT #5 and JUSTICE LEAGUE #1 hit the stands. With every announcement comes another round of speculation, but truth be told, no one will be certain until they are holding the books in their hands.

So while I sit here and speculate about the reception The New 52 is going to get at SDCC and how to work the crowd in our newly designed booth, the fans will continue to speculate about changes to Superman's origin and the mystery of Wonder Woman's ever-changing pants. Nobody is sure what's coming —and that's a good thing.

As for what happened at San Diego Comic-Con? Well, I'm going to hold off from telling you my guess and only speak to what I'm certain of: I had a great time and got absolutely no sleep. With over 100,000 fans celebrating the industry we all love, how could you expect anything else?

To be continued...
DD

DC NATION

DC COMICS EDDIE BERGANZA Executive Editor BOB HARRAS VP-Editor in Chief DIANE NELSON President DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE Co-Publishers GEOFF JOHNS Chief Creative Officer JOHN ROOD Executive VP-Sales, Marketing and Business Development AMY GENKINS Senior VP, Business and Legal Affairs NAIRI GARDINER Senior VP-Finance JEFF BOISON VP-Publishing Operations MARK CHIARELLO VP-Art Direction and Design JOHN CUNNINGHAM VP-Marketing TERRI CUNNINGHAM VP-Talent Relations and Services ALISON GILL Senior VP-Manufacturing and Operations DAVID HYDE VP-Publicity HANK KANALZ Senior VP-Digital JAY KOGAN VP-Business and Legal Affairs, Publishing JACK MAHAN VP-Business Affairs, Talent NICK NAPOLITANO VP-Manufacturing Administration RON PERAZZA VP-Online COURTNEY SIMMONS Senior VP-Publicity BOB WAYNE Senior VP, Sales

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
Certified Chain of Custody
Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
www.sfiprogram.org
PwC-SFICOC-073
This label only applies to the text section.

BATMAN 713. October, 2011. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Congers, NY 10920. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $24.99. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2011 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept uncalicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/gn/ratings
Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauceville, QC, Canada. 8/5/11.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

CRS